

World Forestry Congress 2021 Korea

Same Passion New Vision



Our Story

Forests cover two-thirds of the land in Korea, but decades of poverty, exploitation and war had depleted the land of half its greenery by the 1960s. In response, the government initiated the National Reforestation Programme in 1973 and made forest rehabilitation a top priority even when the GDP per capita was a little over 400 USD. In just 25 years, Korea successfully rehabilitated its forests in full and because we did it on our own, we take great pride in seeing our forests flourish.

Now we are able to utilize forests as a future growth engine and promote diverse forest welfare programs. We reap traditional benefits like clean air and fresh water, but also invest in innovative ways to incorporate the forest's resources into everyday lives. With the diversified scope of our work, forests generate 268,000 jobs and 34.8 billion USD in products yearly. Additionally, millions of people regularly enjoy outdoor activities and forest welfare programs, speaking to the continued contributions of forests to public health and happiness.

By hosting the 15th World Forestry Congress 2021, we hope to share Korea's experience of reforestation and facilitate conversations about global issues in forestry.

Why Korea

Eyes on Asia

WFC has convened in the Asia-Pacific region only twice before – in India 1954 and Indonesia 1978. Aside from the principle of regional rotation, holding WFC 2021 in Asia-Pacific will enable foresters to address pressing issues about environmental sustainability and conservation in a region that is poised to see the fastest economic and population growth in the world. Our bid is supported by fellow Asian countries.

Sharing Our Experience

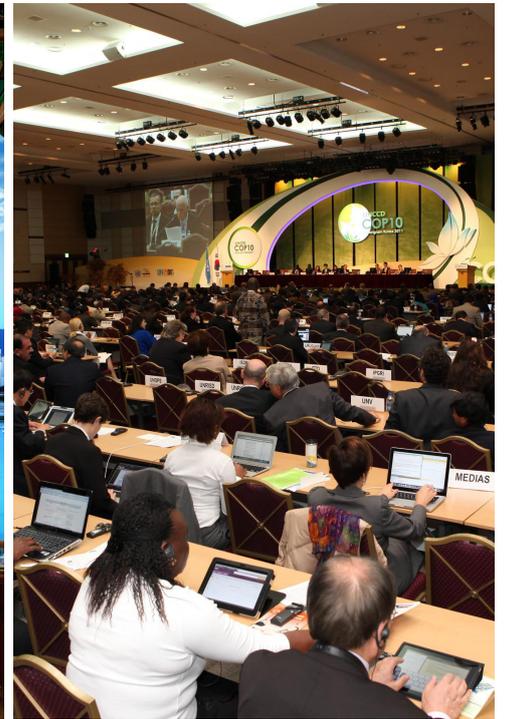
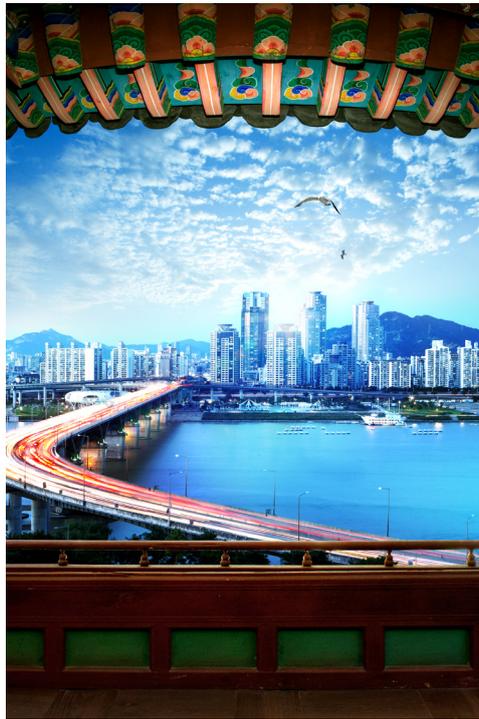
Korea is committed to sharing our unique experience with the international community. We currently participate in restoration, resource development and REDD+ projects in cooperation with 30 countries as well as the UNCCD, CBD and FAO. The ODA budget in Korea is 2 billion USD, 11 million USD of which is used to assist reforestation in developing countries. We would welcome the opportunity to expand global partnerships.

Well-Prepared

Korea Forest Service is a government agency with an extensive network of affiliated organizations. KFS has successfully hosted international conferences, including the 2015 International Wildland Fire Congress, 2011 UNCCD COP10 and the 2010 IUFRO World Congress. So far, it has secured government funding for a budget of 18 million USD to host WFC 2021 and is certain to attract corporate sponsorships as well.

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SEOUL – Our Proposed Host City

Green City

Seoul is the fifth largest city in the world and home to 10 million people. Yet the capital city is full of lush greenery, as urban development coexists with mountains, parks, outdoor exercise stations, walking trails and bike lanes for citizens. The city represents Korea's ability to balance industrialization with environmentalism, and showcases how forestry has contributed to public welfare and quality of life.

Cultural Hotspot

From innovative technology to trendsetting K-pop and fashion, Seoul is a forward-looking city that likes to stay at the forefront of change. The exciting cultural scene is another major attraction. Stylish enclaves of restaurants, galleries, music venues, and all-night shopping malls are dotted throughout the city. Or, attendees can get in touch with Seoul's 600 years of history by strolling through palace grounds or experiencing a temple stay.

Safe and Experienced

Seoul is the world's fifth most popular convention destination. It is easily accessible via Incheon International Airport, which is connected to 187 cities in 54 countries. The capital is consistently ranked one of the safest cities in the world with remarkably low crime rates. The proposed venue, COEX, features state-of-the-art facilities and is within walking distance of multiple accommodations, shopping and dining options.

Did You Know...

- 11 billion trees were planted in Korea from 1962 to 2010
- Seoul has 37 mountains
- Public benefits of reforestation were valued at 110 billion USD (2007)
- One out of every three Koreans go hiking more than once a month
- Korea has 497 forest recreation facilities
- The national recycling rate of paper is 91%
- WFC 2021 will be paper-free, carbon-free & language barrier-free
- 18 million USD already guaranteed for XV WFC 2021
- Seoul named world's 5th most popular convention city (2014, Union of International Associations)
- Ranked 4th safest country in the world (2014, Global Peace Index)



Korea Forest
Service